

Finance Committee evaluates rideshare

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Finance Committee discussed the possibility of a municipal ride-share program after funding was received by the state.

Councilor Rebecca Lisi filed an order that the Holyoke City Council create a revolving fund for the city’s municipal ride share funding that was received by the state through the Transportation Network Company. City Auditor Tanya Wdowiak also spoke on this subject though Finance Committee Chair Joesph McGiverin explained that they should have a discussion, make a recommendation, and ask the Ordinance Committee to put it in legal form as this is a straightforward item. Wdowiak explained that the city gets revenue from the state for ride share assessments based on company’s like Uber and Lyft.

The state started collect-

ing revenue in 2017 and started distributing in 2018, and part of the receipt of the revenue is that the expenditure has to be spent on and in certain areas to address the impact of transportation network services. Such as municipal roads, bridges, and other transportation factors within the city. Wdowiak explained that while they’re receiving revenue they also have to report on the revenue, so she felt that it’d be beneficial for the city to put it in a revolving fund. That way all of the revenue from the ride shares are in one area and it’d be easier to report on.

After discussion McGiverin agreed that the revolving fund is a sensible idea and that the need was there. He suggested that the committee adopt the order and recommend adopting the revolving fund to the Ordinance Committee to be put

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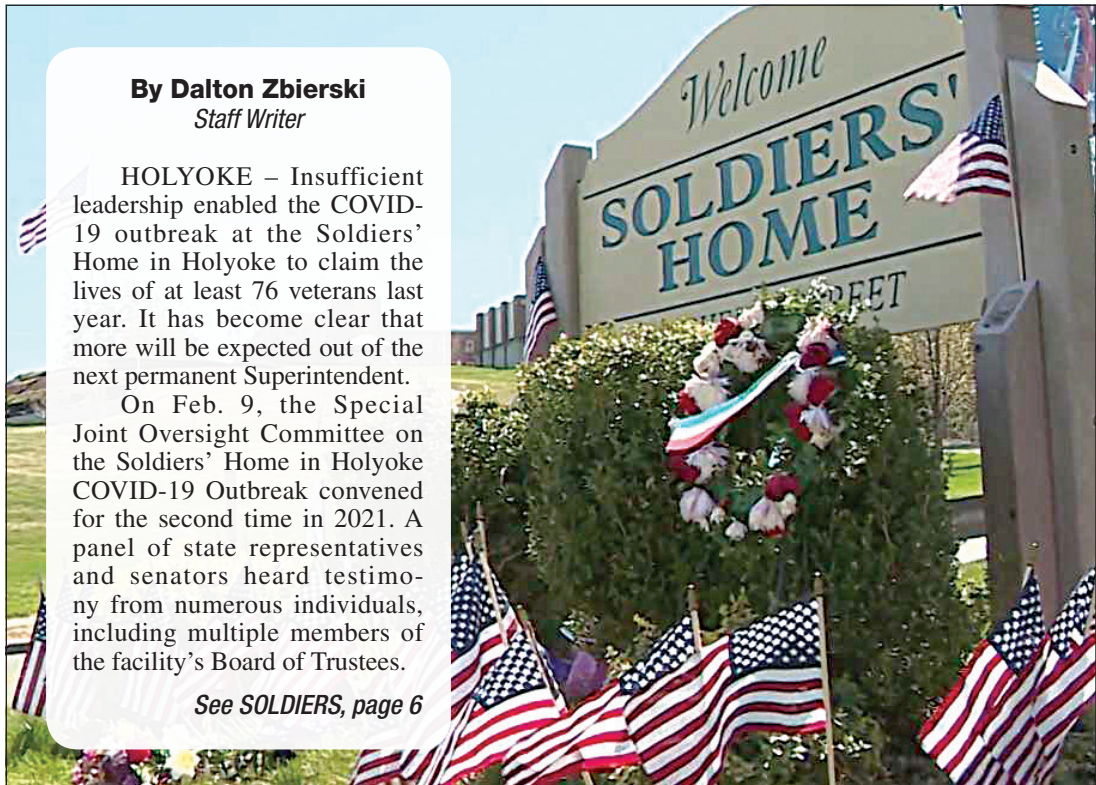
More dynamic leader needed at Soldiers’ Home

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Insufficient leadership enabled the COVID-19 outbreak at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke to claim the lives of at least 76 veterans last year. It has become clear that more will be expected out of the next permanent Superintendent.

On Feb. 9, the Special Joint Oversight Committee on the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke COVID-19 Outbreak convened for the second time in 2021. A panel of state representatives and senators heard testimony from numerous individuals, including multiple members of the facility’s Board of Trustees.

See SOLDIERS, page 6



A Joint Oversight committee is now meeting to discuss issues at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home.

File photo

Three public schools to receive roof replacements

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools are partnering with the Massachusetts School Building Authority in their Accelerated Repair Program. Maintenance Administrator Whitney Anderson said that the schools have worked with the MSBA on projects previously.

The Accelerated Repair Program will be used on roof repairs for three schools in the district: E.N. White, Maurice A. Donahue, and Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan.

These schools were chosen based on specific criteria of the program, these three schools have roofs 30 years old or older, fitting the criteria. Only those three schools met the speci-

cations so they will be the only ones being repaired, but the city had used the repair program at other schools in previous years.

“We’ve been a part of the program before, I’ve been here 25 years and the first roofing project was in 1996.” Anderson said. “It’s all worked out very well in the past and we’ve done a variety of projects at a variety of schools.” The city was

invited to join the program on Dec. 7 last year and in a recent press release, it was confirmed that the city council approved \$270,000 for the schematic design process, and they’ll be contributing a 20% share of the cost of repairs.

The MSBA will provide the city up to 80% reimbursement for the cost of the efforts for this program. Anderson said

See ROOF, page 5

that in previous years the city has received about 79% reimbursement from the MSBA and the Accelerated Repair Program, and he believes that they’ll receive the same amount for this project. There are still a few more steps for the city to take before the projects begin, Anderson is expecting to start

Virtual Shoebox parade planned

HOLYOKE – The Committee to Elect Rebecca Lisi, mayoral candidate, today launched St. Paddy’s Day

Shoebox Parade Party. The virtual Shoebox Parade will be a COVID-safe community event to celebrate St. Patrick’s

Day in Holyoke, a city known throughout the region for its St. Patrick’s Day Parade and weekend festivities.

“The Holyoke community has suffered a great loss due to the cancellation of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and all its corresponding events for two years now due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Lisi. “There’s no way that we could ever replace the Parade and all the festivities leading up to that weekend, but my Committee and I thought that we could create a small, virtual event that could engage families and bring the community together.”

Crafting and displaying shoebox floats is a popular children’s event in communities like

HCC president featured in ‘HERstory’ exhibition

BOSTON – Holyoke Community College president Christina Royal is among the Massachusetts women featured in a photo exhibition and story project in the State House unveiled today by Senate President Karen E. Spilka.



Christina Royal

The photo exhibition on display in the Senate President’s office suite celebrates the often-unsung stories of women of color throughout Massachusetts’ history. “HERstory: Volume II” is the

second installment of photos in the President’s suite to acknowledge the accomplishments of women with connections to Massachusetts.

“Every day I go to work in the State House, I am surrounded by paintings and photos of prominent men from Massachusetts’ history,” said Spilka, the third woman elected president of the Massachusetts State Senate. “The stories of the many,

See HERSTORY, page 11



A virtual Shoebox Parade is being planned for the St. Patrick’s Day holiday.
Submitted photo

Tribute show goes virtual at Mt. Holyoke

SOUTH HADLEY – The Jazz Ensembles of Mount Holyoke College present the 16th edition of The Big Broadcast! on Saturday, March 6 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., in a free streaming version of what would have appeared on the stage of Chapin Auditorium on the Mount Holyoke College campus in South Hadley. Now titled The (Little) Big Broadcast, it's a one-hour tribute to the 1940's radio show, created by and directed by Mark Gionfriddo, featuring the Mount Holyoke College Big Band, Vocal Jazz, and Chamber Jazz Ensembles performing well-known tunes from the swing era and the American songbook. WWLP-TV meteorologist Brian Lapis is emcee "Fred Kelley" for his 14th consecutive season.

Mount Holyoke College music faculty member Mark Gionfriddo originally created The Big Broadcast! for a small cabaret group he directed, and incorporated it into the concert season at Mount Holyoke College. It has since been designated as a Signature Event at the college.

The (Little) Big Broadcast!, according to Gionfriddo, is reconfigured for challenging times. "We've got a series of songs from the golden age of radio, along with some radio commercials of the day. We're featuring the Glenn Miller version of "Little Brown Jug", two Cole Porter hits--"You Do Something To Me" and "Night and Day"; Bobby Troup's "Route 66" as performed by Bing Crosby & The Andrews Sisters; "My Funny Valentine" from Rodgers and Hart's Babes in Arms, and "Star Eyes", a tune made famous by Helen O'Connell and Jimmy Dorsey.

Mark Gionfriddo, creator and director (and "Matt Morgan") of The (Little)



There will be a presentation of "The (Little) Big Broadcast" next month.

Submitted photo

Big Broadcast! is well-known to area concertgoers as a piano soloist, coach/accompanist, composer/arranger, conductor and music director. A versatile musician, Mark's knowledge of diverse repertoire includes classical, jazz, rock, and popular music. Mark has been based at Mount Holyoke College since 1986 where he is Coordinator of Piano Studies for the Department of Music as well as Director and Founder of the Jazz Ensembles. In addition, Mark is Catholic Music Director and conducts the Abbey Chapel Singers for the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.

In 2000, Mark accompanied Garrison Keillor on the Chapin Auditorium stage in a New England Public Radio benefit show, and he conducted the MHC Big Band in 2006 during two episodes of the popular NPR

public radio quiz show "Says You!" During the summer, Mark was resident music director for Berkshire Theatre Group for their productions of Peter Pan, Seussical the Musical, Mary Poppins, Beauty and The Beast, A Christmas Carol, The Music Man, Tarzan, Shrek the Musical, and the Neil Ellenoff Musical Mondays series. Mark's production of A Class Act also appeared off-Broadway at the Robert Moss Theatre.

Mark has recently reunited with the internationally renowned Young@Heart Chorus as pianist and arranger, a post he originally held from 1992-1998. He is also co-author of Good Night, Dear Hart, Good Night, a book about Holyoke's Hart-Lester H. Allen and the Ponzi scandal, on the Epigraph imprint.

Brian Lapis ("Fred Kelley") joined the 22News Storm Team in 1996. He got

his start in broadcasting at the age of 15 at radio station WILI, in his hometown of Willimantic, CT. He's worked as a radio on-air talent for stations in Hartford, CT; Philadelphia, PA; Syracuse, NY; and Providence, RI. Brian has a Bachelor's degree in Television Radio Film Management from Syracuse University. In addition, he holds a certificate in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. This is his 14th season as WJAZ announcer and emcee "Fred Kelley". In 2013, the National Weather Association named Brian "Broadcaster of the Year".

Brian loves performing as "Fred Kelley". "The combination of the opportunity for me to perform, the creative energy of the students and Mark Gionfriddo, and the great music makes this far and away my favorite event of the year," he said. "As a 'student of broadcasting', I am one who appreciates the Golden Age of Radio and just how hugely popular these variety shows were in their day. I'd like to believe that if I were around back in the 1940s, I would have a gig like Fred Kelley's."

Performance sponsors confirmed to date of The (Little) Big Broadcast! are: Mount Holyoke College, and WWLP-22News & The CW Springfield.

Tickets are free for both streamings of The (Little) Big Broadcast!. Advance reservations are required.

For tickets to the 2 p.m. performance: https://events.mtholyoke.edu/event/the_little_big_broadcast_967#.YCK8fC2ZNQI

For tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performance: https://events.mtholyoke.edu/event/the_little_big_broadcast#.YCK50S2ZNQI

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Lisi opposing data cap imposed by Xfinity

HOLYOKE – Rebecca Lisi, Holyoke City Councilor at-Large and candidate for mayor, today released the following statement regarding the votes taken by both the Holyoke and Springfield City Councils pertaining to Comcast data caps.

"Holyoke has led the way in opposing Comcast/Xfinity's data cap policy and is now joined by Springfield with the unanimous support of their city council," said Lisi. "This is clearly an important issue that affects our respective communities. Internet use is climbing due to the stay-at-home measures that families are taking in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm pleased to see that municipalities across the Pioneer Valley are standing up this predatory fee structure.

"The pandemic has laid bare the deep inequities in digital access. The success of our COVID economic recovery

Rebecca Lisi

plan will be inherently connected to our ability to diversify and expand our internet options, not restrict it to only those who can afford it. This is exactly the reason why I was in front of the Holyoke Gas & Electric earlier this week--Holyoke needs to work on a plan to make the same fiber-to-the-home options that Chicopee and South Hadley presently enjoy, available to our city's residents.

"I'm proud to stand by my colleagues on the Holyoke City Council who have said no to Comcast data caps. I'm proud to stand by our counterparts in Springfield who have said no to Comcast data caps. And next week, we look forward to the passage of the Resolutions in Northampton, West Springfield, and Agawam. It definitely helps the region when we can work together on an issue as a united front."

Curbside corned beef dinner planned

HOLYOKE – The Ancient Order of Hibernians-James A. Curran Division One and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two of Hampden/Hampshire Counties are sponsoring a "2021 Irish Night in Holyoke-A Go Go", a curbside pickup of a Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and Ribs prepared by the Log Cabin of Holyoke. The event is Saturday, March 6, 2021 at the Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Rd. in Holyoke-pickup is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on that date. The cultural event will benefit the Maurice

A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship and is in memory of Daniel P. Curran.

The Log Cabin will prepare and feature a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner and ribs, hash, carrots, potatoes, brown bread, and dessert. The cost is \$25.00 per person and includes the meal and one entry into our 50/50 raffle.

For reservations contact Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 by Feb. 27 or online at Eventbrite.com. The Hibernian website is aoh-holyoke.com.

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Shelter to make presentation on violence against women

HOLYOKE – For over 40 years, Womenshelter/Compañeras has worked tirelessly to empower women and their children to live independently and free from domestic violence by providing prevention education, crisis intervention, a safe and confidential shelter, social and legal advocacy, housing, and related support services.

On Feb. 25 at 4 p.m., Womenshelter’s Executive Director, Carmen Nieves, will host Amy Waldman, Co-Director of Capacity Building and Equity Programs at the Department of Public Health, and Quynh Dang Program Director at the Department of Public

Health, to discuss their study, “Rates of Femicide in Women of Different Races, Ethnicities, and Places of Birth” a dataset collected in Massachusetts between 1993-2007.

The data that surrounds this community issue is startling. “Women of color may be less likely to report domestic violence abuse or seek help because of discrimination, negative stereotyping, or fear of law enforcement’s response,” says Nieves.

Following the presentation, our speakers will delve into what this data says about Western Mass-specific homicide rates and what makes our area dis-

tinctive. We will end the roundtable with a Q&A where participants can discuss how the data can inform community-based services and practices.

Domestic violence not only affects women and children. Womenshelter also serves men and extended family members through its community-based programs. There are now specialized services for domestic violence survivors over the age of 50, for those with mental or physical challenges, and for teens and young adults who need support navigating dating and intimate partner relationships.

In 2020, Womenshelter/Compañeras

provided services to 3,246 participants, the majority of whom identified as female (82%).

Womanshelter/Compañeras is dedicated to assisting, supporting, and empowering those whose lives are affected by battering and abuse. Founded in 1980 as a grassroots collective, the organization has sheltered more than 3,000 women and children and assisted 35,000 others through community-based support programs.

You may register here. For more information, contact Pamela Barnes, pbarnes@womanshelter.org or call 413-438-1717.



Voices from the incarcerated veterans subject of presentation

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday Feb. 17 at 2 p.m., Wistariahurst will host Voices from the Incarcerated Veterans Oral History Project, a virtual program presented by Jason Higgins. Higgins will give a talk on his oral history project with U.S. military veterans in the criminal justice system. His work records and preserves the memories and experiences of veterans incarcerated from the wars in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The program is free and open to all, but space is limited and pre-registration is required.

This program is open to all members of the public, but has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program

is supported through a Community Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging. Additional support has been provided through NEH CARES Act funding granted by Mass Humanities.

To register for Voices from the Incarcerated Veterans Oral History Project, please visit www.Wistariahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyokey.org. If you have an idea for a topic you’d like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact info@wistariahurst.org.

HMC seeks blood and plasma donors

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center is actively seeking blood and convalescent plasma donors. The center’s Blood Bank depends on area residents, their friends and neighbors to help meet the transfusion needs of the local community.

“The demand for convalescent plasma is higher than the supply that has been donated throughout the region. People who have recovered from COVID-19 are encouraged to make a donation and help save the lives of up to two people in our community,” said Jon Gronbach, director of laboratory services at Holyoke Medical Center.

Convalescent plasma is a liquid component of blood from patients who have recovered from COVID-19. Patients who have recovered from the disease have antibodies to protect themselves to fight the virus. By making a blood and convalescent plasma donation, recovered

patients can help others fight COVID-19 as well.

Blood and convalescent plasma supplies continue to be low and shortages persist in all categories. Emergency supplies from the Red Cross are often limited. More than 75 percent of the blood and convalescent plasma needed by patients at the medical center comes from people living in Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley and the surrounding communities.

All eligible donors will receive a free recognition gift for their donation, and eligible convalescent plasma donors will receive a free COVID IgG test.

The Blood Bank, located on the first floor of Holyoke Medical Center, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are required.

For further information or to schedule an appointment, call the HMC Blood Bank at 413-534-2591.

HPS staff will soon qualify for vaccination

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Health Center will be offering HPS teachers and staff the COVID-19 vaccine during Phase Two of the vaccine roll-out. They anticipate receiving more COVID-19 vaccines in about two weeks or so and will set up the clinics as soon as the vaccine is available. The vaccine clinics will be prioritized by the phasing

set forth by the state. See the chart below for phasing guidance. HHC will be reaching out directly to HPS staff members via email with more specific information concerning the COVID vaccination in the coming weeks.

Phase 2 of vaccination started on February 1 with group 1 which includes anyone age 75-plus.

RIDESHARE, from page 1

in a legal form, and this was approved by the unanimously.

The Holyoke Public Library also sought fund transfers within their budget. The Finance Committee discussed requests to transfer money between accounts within its funds, as there is money in a night shift position that works during the day. Due to COVID-19 the librarians, assistants, and other staff primarily work during the day; Library Director Maria Pagan requested that funds from the night position be redistributed to other positions that people are working.

Pagan said that these transfers will allow her to pay those positions until June at the end of the fiscal year. The committee approved her request of a \$7,114.60 transfer from reference library assistant night to the daytime position. As well as a request of \$13,927.39 from library assistant night to library assistant for \$10,000 and reference library assistant for \$3,927.39, as there are three positions in need of the extra funds. This request will be brought up at the next City Council meeting on Feb. 16.

There were a few discussions involving department accounts, including reviewing them to find available funds to transfer to DPW for snow removal. City Councilor Linda Vacon brought up this item and had Wdowiak review the information to see if funds were avail-

able, Wdowiak gave a summary of her findings in the meeting as well. She said that they recently conducted reviews of departments and their surplus in budgets, which is part of the reason Wdowiak was able to give input so quickly. She did not include the police, fire, or other safety departments as she feels they can use all the funds they get for their overtime and other expenses.

Wdowiak listed the departments surpluses and checked with each department head that these surplus funds were available to be used for the snow removal costs. The total in surplus that she found was \$2,413.49 and she listed was the surplus was from in each department so the council members could see all the information. Wdowiak also listed departmental needs, which aren’t necessarily deficits, but they are included in the report and will need funding, that total number of needs was \$2,456.16 and there was a deficit of \$4,200.67. “Which I’m not that worried about 4,200 dollars because during the course of the year, I believe that we will be able to see some surpluses in other areas that we could use to cover that with,” Wdowiak said.

After a long discussion of the numbers, surplus, and deficits, Vacon proposed to table the item to give the council members a chance to review the numbers and the report Wdowiak gave them. It can also give the members a chance to review the discussion, and it was approved by the committee.



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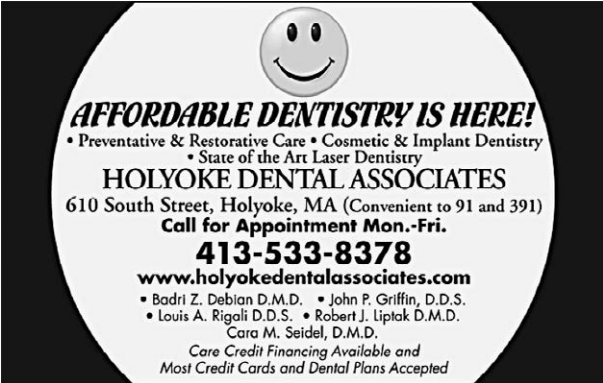
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Combatting cabin fever inside and out

Winters in New England can seem very long in the best of years, but this past fall and now as we find ourselves deep into winter this February, it may seem even longer than normal as COVID-19 remains with us after almost a year.

Punxsutawney Phil, the ever-popular, Pennsylvania groundhog removed from his burrow each year to prognosticate about how many more weeks of winter we'll see before spring makes its anxiously-awaited appearance, made his annual visit above ground on Feb. 2. Unfortunately, he saw his shadow and determined there will be six weeks more of winter.

Luckily, Massachusetts' "famous" groundhog, Ms. G, the official state groundhog of our state also made her annual appearance on Feb. 2. She did not see her shadow and so predicted an early spring. How early we don't yet know. She lives at the Massachusetts Audubon education center, Drumlin Farm, in Lincoln.

It remains to be seen if either forecast is accurate. In the Holyoke area, at least, skunks are already on the move again, a sure sign spring is headed our way. Of course the Paper City is usually a little warmer than many other Western Mass locations, so who knows?

Whether Phil's or Mrs. G's forecasting proves true, we are all getting at least a touch of cabin fever, and there's certainly stronger feelings of restlessness and boredom running through us all and our friends and family.

So what to do? Considering our very recent snow, one can choose to educate oneself and go hiking, but if you're new to the activity make sure you learn about the right clothing to wear based on temperatures and planned activities.

If you haven't investigated doing so before cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are possible now that we have plenty of the white stuff.

And if you've never tried ice fishing and you're willing to take a ride, you can head to Russell, where the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures' ice fishing staff, with Craig Mannix, will be on hand to help you. With over 30 years of ice fishing experience, Mannix and his team will be available to show even the most novice fisherman how to catch the big ones under the ice. For those folks without the proper ice fishing equipment, plenty of "pop-ups" and other tools necessary to successfully find fish will be available for use out on the frozen lake.

While at Woronoco Heights on Feb. 20, it's also possible to try blacksmithing with the help of a Forged in Fire contestant as well as snowshoeing and/or mountain biking, although COVID-19 safety restrictions require all to bring their own bike helmets. There will also be orienteering, escape challenges and scavenger hunt bingo as well as other activities. If Mother Nature cooperates with the right weather, there may be trips out to the Top O' The Hill Maple "sugar shack" where visitors are rewarded for their efforts with samples of their sweet, freshly boiled, maple syrup.

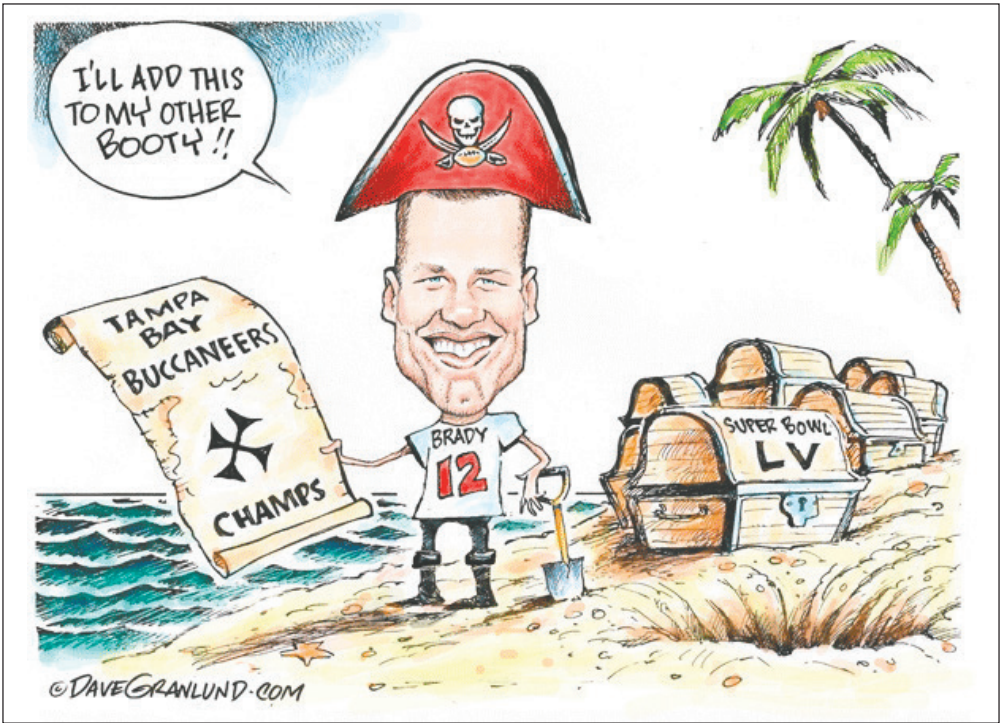
The events go on from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and it's \$10 a piece for everyone regardless of age.

But if the cold weather, snow and ice isn't your or your family's thing, there are plenty of indoor activities on Zoom or other video conferencing applications.

Area groups and libraries have worked hard to keep us all entertained – and with the ubiquity of Zoom, it's possible to enjoy programs you might not have considered participating in before from the comfort of your own living room.

Dreaming of gardening in the spring? The East Quabbin Land Trust, will host a book discussion on Feb. 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to

See CABIN FEVER, page 6



Letters to the Editor

Fresh flower care and flowers for free

With St. Valentine's Day coming up this Sunday, my thoughts turn to flowers and chocolate. Flowers because I am who I am, and chocolate, because I am surely hoping hubby will provide ample quantities in a heart-shaped box! Anyway, back to the flowers..

Many folks will be graced with a bouquet of cut flowers in honor of this special holiday, and I have some tips up my sleeve to make sure you get longevity out of your gift. No matter how your flowers make it home, either in a sleeve or in a box, chances are they've been out of water for some time. Once stems start to seal up, water and nutrients won't be able to flow and their lifespan could be cut short. Therefore, the first thing you ought to do is recut them. Your goal is to have a clean cut, one that won't crush the flower's vascular system.

In fact, I've never understood advice that mentions smashing floral stems; don't do it! Use bypass clippers, or if you're comfortable, a sharp knife. Household scissors usually aren't sharp enough, since they are geared more for cutting paper or fabric. Most advice books recommend making your cut on a 45 degree angle to expose the most surface area possible to water. Another trick is to cut the flower stems under water—this process



will prevent air bubbles from clogging the stems. I usually fill a clean sink or bucket, submerge the flower stems and cut 1 or 2" off the bottom. If you've ever had a rose with a bent head, that is an air bubble at work. Try re-cutting the stem under water and hopefully the bubble will be forced out.

As you move your flowers into a vase (make sure it's clean!), remove any leaves that you estimate will be under the water line.

Waterlogged leaves will rot and make bacteria that can clog stems, shorten vase life and make quite a stench! Some flowers do better if most of their foliage is removed, the reason being that the leaves draw water away from the main stem, and therefore away from the flower head. I generally snip off all the leaves of lilac, and remove all but the uppermost leaves of hydrangeas and zinnias. Usually a small packet of floral preservative is included along with your flowers. Using this in your vase of water will feed the blooms and encourage them to open to their fullest, vivid-color potential!

This year, Valentine's Day coincides with the start of February vacation. Why not snip some branches of your favorite spring shrubs for a neat experiment with the

See GARDEN, page 5

Poetry Corner

I Wonder

By Thomas J. Kennedy

Sometimes I wonder
If I've been a pretty good God guy.
How far do I have to grow?
I always wanted everyone happy
Not short term emotion of anger or spite
Waiting for calm to be right.
Others first. Others first.
Know eventually someone's heart will burst.
I created my fun with milk bottle caps
As we raced down Jackson Street
With a cut straw beat.
Then always was good fun.
Whatever available – We made it run.
Who could be bored with Fibber McGee and Molly.
The closet stuff all coming down!!!
No visuals but pure imagination sharing.
From not stepping on sidewalk cracks
To a stop at the corner store.
Then we built one to three stories tree forts
Always from some things in the incinerator saved,
Or at least give it a try.
And always help the person to the first level
To stay there and shout out our homework.
Happy days, never bored.
Please God, bring these times back soon
And get rid of the stress
And give us only . . . Your best!

HOLYOKE
the Sun

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Keep love
in your heart.

A life without it
is like a
sunless garden
when the flowers
are dead."

Oscar Wilde

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Holyoke students make 2020 Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College announces 834 students were named to the fall 2020 dean’s list.

The dean’s list is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average. Those from Holyoke making

the list were: Abdiel Acevedo, Johnny Calderon, Naisha Mabel Caraballo, Miranda Brittany Chevere, Annyah Marie Dejesus, Christian J. De la Torre Santoyo, Robert Domina, David William Fleming, Jorge Raul Gonzalez III, Kiara L. Gonzalez, Erika Noelle Kovalski, Joseph Maina Kungu, Piper Lesley Lacharite, Eddy H. Lam, Amirah Leigh Mahdy, Nishi Patel, Ashley Katherine Perez, Jenny Louise Pike, Jeffrey Ramos, Jerilyne I. Reynoso, Sheila Rodriguez, Sabrina Roman-Hernandez, Sophorn Sing, Linny Son, Samuel Trombley.

WPI announces fall 2020 Dean’s List

WORCESTER – The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differs from most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work

completed at the A level in courses and projects.

Tyler Guertin, class of 23, majoring in Aerospace Engineering

Connor Norton, class of 22, majoring in Biochemistry

GARDEN, from page 4

kids? Just think, when the bought flowers are long gone, you’ll have some others waiting in the wings. The most common shrub to force in the vase is the forsythia; it can be done as early as late January or February, and right up until regular, outdoor bloom time.

Cut the branches on a day that temperatures are above freezing. The best for forcing are those that have many swollen buds. Bring them indoors and recut the

stems just as you did for your cut flowers: under water and with a diagonal cut. The branches can then be put in a container or vase with a few inches of water in it.

I usually steer away from using floral preservative on flowering shrubs. Any side branches or buds that fall below the water line should be removed. Change the water every few days to prevent bacteria growth. If kept in a warm room, buds should break within a few weeks. Many other of our favorite spring-blooming trees and shrubs can also be forced

PARADE, from page 1

New Orleans that have a strong tradition of celebrating Mardi Gras. In 2020, cities across the country adopted shoebox float parades as a way to safely celebrate Thanksgiving and other holidays in light of the pandemic restrictions on gatherings. This year, Lisi and her Committee have created a Facebook Shoebox Parade Party event that will allow the Holyoke community to honor the decades long tradition of celebrating St. Patrick’s Day in the city while adapting and innovating the event to make it safe and accessible.

Community members are being asked to create and decorate shoebox floats that will become a part of a virtual photo party that will occur on the Committee’s Facebook Event Page throughout the month of March, with a video shoebox parade compilation airing on Wednesday, Mar. 17 at 4 p.m. Photo and video submissions are due on March 3rd, submission details are outlined on the Parade Party Event Page on Facebook. There will be prizes for different category winners including Greatest Holyoke Spirit, Best Dressed Float,

Ultimate St. Paddy’s Day Float, Most Creative Float, and most social media engagements.

“This is a wonderful way to bring the community together in a fun and safe way, especially since we aren’t able to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in person as usual,” said Shannon Sarkisian, Associate Campaign Advisor and Volunteer Coordinator. “I can’t wait to see the creative things that people will come up with! As for myself, I’m going all out to attempt to make a shoebox that embodies our beloved Ashley Reservoir. My shoebox float might not even look good, but it’s guaranteed to be good fun for sure.”

Campaign committee member Jeff Trask said, “After being cooped up inside all winter in even ‘normal times,’ by March we are all looking forward to coming out of our homes for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Since we are not able to come out to celebrate the Parade this year, this will be a little event to lift everyone’s spirits. I’m looking forward to participating with my little one and possibly starting a new family tradition.”

Lisi and her Committee launched the event today and has already generated a lot of enthusiastic support.

ROOF, from page 1

the projects in the summer 2022 and finish that fall.

In a recent press release, Mayor Alex Morse, Receiver/Superintendent Alberto Vazquez Matos, and City Council President Todd McGee spoke about the program and the valuable opportunity this it provides. “The roofs are more than 30 years old, are at the end of their useful lives, and numerous repairs continue to be made,” Morse said. “I want to thank the MSBA for their commitment and belief of our great community.”

City officials also appreciate the cost and possible reimbursement of the project, as it can save the city money. There have been multiple repairs on these roofs and replacing them on the city’s own would be far more costly as would further repairs.

“This gives the City the ‘biggest bang for the buck’ to restore our buildings at a fraction of the cost of the project’s value,” McGee said. “I’m delighted to bring forth this opportunity with unanimous approval from the rest of the council.”

The town had expressed interest in the project last year, and Anderson is excited that the process is moving along quickly. Now that the funds were approved, they need to be appropriated, then the town will get an architect and project manager to look at plans. After that the city will move into phase two of the project where they will do a design feasibility study, send their plans to MSBA, then the state will overlook the plans and tell the city to proceed. There is a Mar. 16 deadline for putting papers together for the project, Anderson is confident in their ability to send the appropriate information in.

Kufta named to Holy Cross Dean’s List

WORCESTER – Madeleine Kufta of Holyoke, was named to the College of the Holy Cross Fall 2020 Dean’s List. A member of the Class of 2023, Kufta is majoring in Undeclared.

Kufta was among more than 1,453 students named to the Dean’s List for

outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Local pair honored by Univ. of Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, AL – A total of 13,128 students enrolled during the fall 2020 term at The University of Alabama made the Dean’s List with academic records of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or the President’s List with academic records of 4.0 (all A’s).

The UA Dean’s and President’s

Lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

Daniel Cavanaugh, of Holyoke, was named to the Presidents List.

Olivia Cavanaugh, of Holyoke, was named to the Dean’s List.

Read The Holyoke Sun online at: www.sun.turley.com



into bloom. Try the same approach with redbud, honeysuckle, crabapple, magnolia and flowering almond, cherry and plum.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Composed

5. Lesotho currency

9. Ethnic group associated with Hungarians

11. Gains knowledge of

13. Gradual destruction

15. Purchase

16. Pharaoh of lower Egypt

17. Where you're going

19. The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet

21. Fishing net

22. Midway between south and southeast

23. A way to sort

25. C C C

26. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)

27. Discount

29. Consumes tobacco

31. A way to run

33. Popular musical awards show

34. Pertains to the male sexual organ

36. Supplements with difficulty

38. Green veggie

39. Deep-bodied freshwater fish

41. Holy fire

43. Usually has a lid

44. Being of use or service

46. Have a yen for

48. Unknowingness

52. Dry white wine drink

53. Unwinds

54. Traveling by sea

56. Outdoor entertaining areas

57. Stringed instruments

58. ___ Redgrave, actress

59. Moves earth

CLUES DOWN

1. Progressive decay of a bone or tooth

2. Burrowing rodents

3. French/Belgian river

4. A professional cleaner

5. A Russian river

6. Kiln

7. True statements

8. Most private

9. French city

10. Masses of fish eggs

11. Apart from others

12. Monetary unit of Samoa

14. Nanosecond

15. Film

18. Men's fashion accessories

20. Flowering shrub

24. North Carolina university

26. Former monetary unit of Spain

28. Foodies

30. New Zealand parrot

32. Makes very happy

34. A payment required for not fulfilling a contract

35. Emerald Isle

37. The act of terminating someone's employment

38. Gland in some mammals

40. Commoner

42. Large animals

43. Belch

45. Employee stock ownership plan

47. Work units

49. Wagon

50. Nerve fiber

51. Proclaimed

55. Japanese delicacy

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9



Eastern States Exposition is looking to create programming for the 4-H community. Submitted photo

Big E planning 4-H programs

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Planning is underway by Eastern States Exposition and the New England 4-H community to create programming and opportunities for the youth organization to grow and thrive while keeping participants safe under COVID-19 protocols.

Gene Cassidy, President and CEO of Eastern States Exposition said, “During this unique time in our history, ESE is doing all it can to support and provide an appropriate venue for youth and agriculture, the core of our mission.”

A variety of programs and competitions for youth are being considered including the introduction of a summer 4-H competitive event. Events will be carefully planned for participants and animals to be able to properly social

distance in the barns and areas on the grounds.

The group strives to explore innovative programming, to support youth and to educate them on career opportunities and workforce development.

ESE Trustee and committee member Nick Barishian said, “We have joined forces with all six New England 4-H Programs, 4-H Staff, 4-H Volunteers, and 4-H Youth from across New England to reimagine the New England 4-H Program to take its current best-in-class event, and bring it to an even better place, truly living the 4-H motto to ‘Make the Best Better.’”

More information will be available as plans develop.

Symphony announces virtual events

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Symphony Orchestra is extending its virtual adult music education offerings with two new events for Winter 2021:

Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Brahms’ Last Hurrah with Maestro Kevin Rhodes. In the fall, Maestro Rhodes led a lively and jam-packed session touch-

CABIN FEVER, from page 4

Conversation That Starts in Your Yard,” by Douglas Tallamy, a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. He is also the author of “Bringing Nature Home.” He will discuss how homeowners can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.

It’s free and people should email

SOLDIERS, from page 1

“Going forward, the appropriate thing to do is have someone who is qualified in that Superintendent position,” said Trustee Isaac Mass. “They should have capability; even having a background or knowledge in a medical environment.”

When the outbreak escalated in March 2020, former Soldiers’ Home Superintendent Walsh failed to make critical inquiries or request assistance in a timely manner before acting inside of the facility, where at least 80 staff members and an additional 84 veterans contracted COVID-19 in 2020.

Despite his decorated military career, Walsh was inexperienced in operating a 24/7 care facility. Prior to the pandemic, Marylou Sudders, the state’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, had several reservations concerning Walsh’s capability and encouraged him enroll in the career program at Suffolk University.

“My concern about the Superintendent was that since he had a

distinguished military background but had not worked in 24/7 congregate care, long-term care background, there was a strong believe to [employ] a deputy who had that kind of background to balance the skillset the Superintendent had,” said Sudders.

It was not until Dec. 20, 2020, long after Walsh’s firing, that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services announced Glen Hevy as Deputy; Hevy was previously the senior operations official for Patient Care Services at the 400-bed Bedford VA Medical Center.

Mass reiterated that a “lack of leadership” led to last year’s outbreak. He voiced confidence in the interim Superintendent, Michael Lazo.

“[Lazo] is acutely aware of the issues of the Soldiers Home and the resources that are available to him,” said Mass. “While long-term our, or at least my, hope is to have someone who is [medically] qualified, in the short term, I think that we are covered in the leadership and staffing at the home if there’s additional crisis that comes up.”

Trustee Kevin Jourdain, the Soldiers’

Home’s former Chairman, is promoting the creation of a crisis hotline that would connect veterans, staff and family members with an outside agency.

Jourdain regrets that the board was unable to assist in a greater capacity during the outbreak at the Soldiers’ Home. He believes that the body is treated by state officials as an advisory board, when, in fact, statutes give it much greater authority.

“If you don’t know the nature of the work, you just take at face value what you’re told by people in charge,” said Jourdain. “I’ll say it again on the record. They act like we don’t matter because they’re literally saying, one, ‘We’re going to [act] irrespective of the board, basically.’”

Jourdain is frustrated regarding the slow process of bringing a new facility to Holyoke. He feels as though state has ignored the trustees as it goes about pushing a capital plan for a \$300 million home.

The current plan is for a 192-bed facility with a caveat for an additional floor that would create space for an additional 37 beds. Mass said that the state’s proposal has been poorly received by some parties.

“That is certainly far lower than what the Holyoke Soldiers Home Coalition is advocating for 280 beds,” said Mass. “There are some additional complications in that the nature of health-care is changing for veterans coming back. There are more instances related to TBI issues and behavior health issues. The plan that was presented to us does not contemplate beds for those services.”

State Senator Joh Veils of the Second Hampden and Hampshire District agreed that more services must be provided. He found it unfortunate that lives were lost before the need for improvements was widely accepted.

“These are the kinds of things that, unfortunately, we don’t talk about until a tragedy strikes. We have a lot of families of veterans who don’t have their loved ones anymore,” said Velis. “It’s very easy for us to be Monday morning quarterbacks, but there are certain things you look at; there could have been a more expedient resolution.”



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Tigers to take the ice after long layoff

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – After a longer than expected layoff, the South Hadley High School ice hockey team will have an opportunity to take the ice for a shortened schedule that will run from now until the beginning of March.

The Tigers opened up the season with games against Chicopee High School and Southwick earlier this week.

Next week, the Tigers are scheduled to face Greenfield among their several matchups. They are also scheduled to face Ludlow and Chicopee Comprehensive. All of the teams are usually league rivals.

There are currently six games on the Tigers schedule, and more may be added depending on how weather and other factors cooperate. Most of the teams are two weeks ahead of the Tigers, who had to wait until near the end of January to begin practicing in search of an abbreviated regular season.

Originally, the South Hadley School Committee voted against allowing the Tigers to take the ice, citing the spiking numbers of COVID-19 cases in the communi-

ty and throughout the region. Basketball was also cancelled, and the teams are really only allowed to practice, which school committee members argued was a way for the teams to “be together.”

Hockey did not have that opportunity as ice time was not being reserved for teams not playing a season.

This led to a protest and complaints from many of the hockey parents, who advocated for the team to be able to play an abbreviated winter season. This came after South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay had laid out a plan for the hockey season to be played safely.

Among the restrictions will be limits for fans at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke, and there will be many protocols players will need to follow in order to be able to play.

Rinks have had to be modified to have an extended benches in order to allow for some social distancing.

There are rules about penalty boxes, as only one player will be allowed in the penalty box at a time while additional players sent to the box will have to go to another location or the bench.



When South Hadley hockey takes the ice, they will have to deal with no locker rooms.

While checking and incidental contact has always been allowed in high school hockey versus professional hockey where fighting also happens, high school players must have limited contact on the face, and



Benches are also extended temporarily. The extended benches will also assist with additional penalties.

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

only one player from each team can be involved in a scrum to get a loose puck.

If a scrum lasts more than five seconds, the play will be blown dead by the official.

South Hadley's team will include four players from Granby, and the Tigers separation from Holyoke will remain as no players are involved from the city. Holyoke cancelled its winter season but will be involved in the Fall 2 season, which should include football and will start in early March.



Challenge Cup set to finally debut

REGION — After a one-year delay, The New England Late Model Challenge Cup (NELMCC) is finally debuting in 2021 — and it will be even bigger than originally planned. American-Canadian Tour (ACT) officials confirmed today that nine tracks have signed up for the first season of the series that will pit weekly Late Model racers from across the region in a summer-long battle for pride, glory, and some serious prize money.

The inaugural Challenge Cup was originally slated for the 2020 season before being pushed back a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The basic format remains the same, with registered drivers taking their 10 best eligible finishes at participating tracks towards the season-long point standings.

However, the scope of the

program has grown tremendously during the one-year hiatus. Nine tracks from four New England states have signed up, nearly double the amount that were originally registered for 2020.

The increase in tracks also means an increase in the season-ending awards. A guaranteed minimum point fund of \$14,000 has been posted for the Challenge Cup. The \$100 registration fee for each driver will also be added to the point fund in full. For example, if 40 drivers sign up for the series, another \$4,000 would be added to the point fund for a total of \$18,000.

Should registration be on pace with the 2020 pre-pandemic numbers, the total point fund could exceed \$20,000. A minimum prize of \$3,000 goes to the overall winner. At least

the top-10 drivers in the final standings will receive payouts.

Several big contingency and raffle awards have been posted, adding even more value to the program for racer. A Port City Chassis by Crazy Horse Racing will be raffled off at season's end. To qualify for the chassis raffle, drivers must register by the deadline and attempt to qualify for at least 10 point-counting events.

ARBodies and Five Star Bodies are each awarding a \$500 product certificate. Drivers who finish in the overall top-10 and have declared they are running an AR or Five Star body will be eligible for these raffles.

Drivers who register by the early-entry deadline of March 1 will also be entered into a Hoosier Tire raffle. Two randomly chosen entrants each receive two free ACT Late Model tires from Hoosier. ACT will also honor the tire awards of the 2020 pre-pandemic raffle winners if they register for this year's Challenge Cup.

“This program is a huge step forward for weekly Late Model racing in New England,” ACT managing partner Cris



Alan Ward is one racer who will be trying to compete in the Late Model Challenge Cup this year.

Submitted photo

See RACING, page 8

Football season vote reconsidered

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The actual composition of the high school football season is back up in the air after the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association voted to reconsider its decision on a format for the 2021-2022 season.

Just a few weeks after agreeing on a format that would be used this fall, the MIAA Board of Directors backtracked on the vote, voting overwhelming in favor in a special meeting last Thursday morning to reconsider its decision.

This fall is set to be the first under the new statewide tournament format that was voted into effect in early 2020. Unfortunately, Western Massachusetts schools did not have the opportunity to have one final sectional tournament before the new tournament format takes effect.

The original vote was to have a nine-week season beginning Labor Day weekend and going to the first

week of November. There would then be eight qualifying teams per Division to participate in a statewide tournament. There are currently scheduled to be eight divisions in high school football though their exact composition has not been determined. Most other high school sports will be divided into five divisions in order to level the competition throughout the state.

One other proposal presented a few weeks back was to have an eight-week qualifying campaign, much similar to the existing format. The only difference being the fact the playoffs will be a state tournament instead of a four-team sectional, followed by state semifinals. The state finals would still be scheduled to take place after Thanksgiving, and Thanksgiving holiday matchups could still be preserved.

One thing that would change are the consolation games that occurred among non-playoff teams. The con-

See FOOTBALL, page 8

Walsh receives Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship award

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Kendall Walsh IV, a recent Chicopee High School graduate, was one of the two high school hockey players from Western Massachusetts to receive the annual Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship Award.

“A couple of Chicopee High School hockey players have been selected for the sportsmanship award in the past,” said Walsh during a recent zoom interview. “It feels very nice to add my name to that list and I take a lot of pride in being selected for this award.”

Walsh, a freshman at Nichols College in Dudley, was nominated for the Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship Award by Chicopee hockey coach Al Styckiewicz.

“Kendall’s performance as a Chicopee hockey player was always professional and hard-working,” Styckiewicz said. “He was a captain of the hockey team and led through example on and off the ice. I demand sportsmanship from my players, and it was an easy sell for Kendall because he was bred with it. Whether it was his teammates or the opposing team he always showed a lot of respect.”

According to the Pacers head coach, Walsh only drew two penalties from the referees during his senior season.

“I believe in Kendall’s senior year he only received two penalties,” Styckiewicz said. “In all four years of his high school career, he received less than 10 penalties. That’s from memory, so it’s probably a lot less.”

The Sportsmanship Award recipients would normally be honored during a Bruins home game in front of a sell-out crowd at the TD Garden. This year’s award ceremony was held virtually on zoom because of COVID-19. Bruins President Cam Neeley did present the awards to the recipients.

The Chicopee hockey team has also won a total of six state sportsmanship awards.

“My hockey team won the team sportsmanship award when I was a junior,” Walsh said. “The captains received the award before Pope Francis faced B.C. High in the state finals at the TD Garden. It was a cool experience for us.”

Walsh, who’s a center, started playing hockey for the Pioneer Valley Lightning when he was eight years old. The Lightning played their games at Fitzpatrick Arena in Holyoke, which is also Chicopee Comp’s home rink.

He joined the Chicopee High hockey team as a freshman. The Pacers play their home games at Smead Arena, which is located next to Central High School in Springfield.

“I don’t think I could’ve had a better experience playing high school hockey than I did,” Walsh said. “I will probably never forget the last four years. I’ve met a lot of lifelong friends and I’m still close with all of my coaches.”

Walsh gave his thoughts about playing hockey for coach Styckiewicz, who



Kendall Walsh was a recent recipient of the Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship award. Walsh is currently a freshman at Nichols College.



Proud parents, KJ and Holly Walsh stand with Kendall during his last hockey game at CHS.

he met for the first time on the first day of practice as a freshman.

“Coach Al is an old school hockey coach, but he definitely has a lot of knowledge about the game,” he said. “He has had some players who might not have very much talent, but he was able to turn them into something special. He’s definitely someone that I’ll never forget.”

There were 11 seniors on the Pacers hockey team when Walsh was a freshman. Coach Styckiewicz called the younger players on the hockey team by their uniform numbers.

“Because there were 11 seniors on the team that year, coach Al would call all of the freshmen players by their numbers,” Walsh said. “By the time we were juniors, he knew us by name. He became very close with us.”

Walsh wore the No. 4 jersey during his high school hockey career.

“I wore No. 4 because my dad, my grandfather, my great grandfather, and I all share the same name,” Walsh said. “All four of us are named Kendall



Kendall Walsh was one of two players in the region to receive the award.



With strong roots in Holyoke, the four Kendalls pose for a family photo at Kendall’s high school senior night. Inset, the sportsmanship medal received from the Boston Bruins-MIAA.

Jerome Walsh. Being able to wear No. 4 was awesome. My parents have always given me a lot of support and I always strive to make them proud of me.”

The Chicopee hockey team finished the 2017 regular season with an impressive 18-1-1 record. After earning a quarterfinal bye as the top-seeded team in the Western Mass. Division 3A tournament, the Pacers defeated Belchertown by five goals in the semifinals. They then lost a heartbreaker to third-seeded South Hadley, 3-2 in overtime in the Western Mass. finals, which was held at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

“I didn’t play in the Western Mass. finals as a freshman,” Walsh said. “It was definitely the best season that we had while I was a member of the hockey team. It was just a great experience just being a small part of it.”

The Pacers (12-3-5) were also the top-seeded team in the postseason tournament the following year. They were upset by fifth-seeded Belchertown in semifinals at Olympia.

When Walsh was a junior, he was named as an assistant captain by coach Styckiewicz.

Chicopee (9-8-3) lost to Belchertown in the quarterfinals that season.

The Pacers, who went 9-5-7 last year, lost to South Hadley in the quarterfinals.

Overall, Walsh won a total of 48 regular season games during his outstanding high school hockey career.

Walsh’s first line mates during his senior season were Trevor Poirier, who was also a senior, and freshman Tyler Bielecki.

“Trevor and I were named captains as seniors,” Walsh said. “It was a lot of fun being a team leader.”

One of the Pacers biggest games during the regular season is against cross-town rival Chicopee Comp.

“When I was a junior, we lost to Comp in overtime in the Winter Classic, which was our first loss to them in a long time,” Walsh said. “Because Comp is in the same town, we know all of their players very well. We played different sports with those guys growing up. You always want to beat them in every game, but it’s a friendly rivalry.”

While hockey has always been his favorite sport, Walsh was a three-year member of the Pacers golf team and played lacrosse for one season.

RACING, from page 7

Michaud said. “The Challenge Cup was one of the things we were most excited about in 2020 before the pandemic. Now, with nearly twice as many tracks on board plus some great contingency partners, it’s going to be even bigger for teams and fans.”

“Weekly racers are the backbone of the sport, and it’s important to reward them for their efforts,” Michaud went on. “We’ve come up with a program that does so and which we think will boost car counts and action throughout the region.”

Four tracks from the original 2020 slate will return for the 2021 debut:

Barre, VT’s Thunder Road Speedbowl; North Woodstock, NH’s White Mountain Motorsports Park; Connecticut’s Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park; and Massachusetts’ Seekonk Speedway.

Five other tracks have joined the Challenge Cup. Connecticut’s New London-Waterford Speedbowl will be the second Connecticut track. Furthermore, four tracks from the New Hampshire Short Track Racing Association (NHSTRA) have signed up: Monadnock Speedway, Lee USA Speedway, Hudson Speedway, and Claremont Speedway.

Any competitor at the four NHSTRA tracks must use the ACT Late Model rules option the organization has introduced for the 2021 season. In other

words, cars need to be 100% ACT legal for drivers to earn Challenge Cup points.

All weekly Late Model features at participating tracks will be eligible for the Challenge Cup. Registered drivers can earn Challenge Cup points at any of the nine tracks. For example, a Thunder Road Late Model regular can also earn points at White Mountain, and a Thompson Speedway regular can also earn points at New London-Waterford Speedbowl or Monadnock Speedway.

A driver’s 10 best performances across all tracks count towards their NELMCC total. Points will be awarded based on finishing position, car count, and cars passed. The full system is available at www.actour.com/NELMCC.

Participating tracks are responsible

for reporting results to the ACT offices. ACT Late Model Tour events and “open events” at these tracks are not eligible for Challenge Cup points.

To register for the New England Late Model Challenge Cup, drivers must submit the entry form along with a \$100 registration fee by Monday, April 5. Entries postmarked by Monday, March 1 will be eligible for the Hoosier tire drawing. The entry form and point system outline are available at www.actour.com/NELMCC and on participating track websites.

For more information, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

HFBUA seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction.

The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area.

If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilthunter@comcast.net.

FOOTBALL, from page 7

solation games were determined by a committee in the MIAA for Weeks 9 and 10 as a way to bridge the gap for teams between the eight-week qualifying season and Thanksgiving.

Now, the MIAA is not planning to specifically come up with matchups, but one area athletic director, Agawam’s David Stratton, said a local organization, like the PVIAC, could determine non-playoff games based on who is not involved in the tournament.

“If we did non-playoff games, it would have to be done on a local level,” said Stratton.

Following the reconsideration vote, there was a motion for the nine-week season again, but it was defeated.

Now, the exact regular season format will have to wait until a future meeting as the meeting concluded without a new vote on how many weeks the regular season will be.

In Western Massachusetts, teams will still be playing in competitive conferences, which usually consist of five to seven teams. Depending on whether the regular season will be eight or nine weeks, teams would have to pick up independent games against non-conference teams.

Football teams will have an opportunity to play again in the Fall 2 season, set for next month. However, there will be no playoffs for the Fall 2 season.

Mass Golf championships return this season

NORTON – Mass Golf is excited to announce the return of a full schedule for Championships and Women’s Championships during the 2021 season. While Mass Golf was able to conduct a majority of its events and qualifiers in 2020, this year’s slate will also include the return of events canceled last year due to COVID-19, such as the Massachusetts Open.

According to Kevin Eldridge, Mass Golf’s Director of Rules and Competitions, about 60 championship events, including 18-hole qualifying rounds, are being scheduled, and they will take place at 63 different Mass Golf Member Clubs. In total, more than 4,600 registrations are expected. “This year’s lineup of championship events and qualifiers wouldn’t have been possible without the support and dedication of all our host clubs,” Eldridge said.

“As we enter into what we plan to be a full season of Mass Golf events, we remain committed to maintaining the level of care and attention put towards keeping our competitors, volunteers, host club personnel, and staff safe,” said Jesse Menachem, Mass Golf Executive Director/CEO. “Statewide and nationally, golf was recognized as a safe recreational activity during times of great restriction and we are confident that we will keep this positive momentum surrounding the sport going into the 2021 season.”

Online registrations for 2021 Mass Golf events will begin in early March. Additional details surrounding the new registration platform and the registration open dates will be provided in the coming weeks.

Sign-ups available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32

of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or register go to www.westernmassrelics.org.

Public Notices

Notice

The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission (MSLC) has received a KENO License application from:

BRIAN BORU
37 COMMERCIAL STREET
HOLYOKE, MA

Estimated weekly traffic: (number of people):500

Current No. of Cashier positions selling Lottery products: 0

Percentage of floor space currently devoted to Lottery sales: 0%

Percentage of floor space for KENO sales: 5%

Estimated annual gross revenues of current Lottery products: \$0

Estimated percentage of gross revenues from sales of Lottery products: 7%

Estimated net income to be derived by sales of KENO products at this location: \$6,000

Written objection to the application, by the Local Licensing Authority, must be received by Gregory Polin, General Counsel, Legal Department, Massachusetts State Lottery, 150 Mount Vernon St., Dorchester, MA 02125 – 3573.

02/12/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21C0024CA
In the matter of:
Molly Elizabeth Damon-Rush
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Molly Elizabeth Damon-Rush** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Vivienne Louise Damon

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/26/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 29, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/12/2021

HOLYOKE WATER WORKS
HOLYOKE,
MASSACHUSETTS
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the “**Holyoke Water Works, Phase 2A Water Main Replacement Project**” will be received by the Holyoke Water Works at 20 Commercial Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 until **1:00 p.m. local time on March 10, 2021.** The Bid Opening will follow at 2:00 p.m. at the Holyoke Water Treatment Plant at 600 Westfield Road, Holyoke, MA, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed Bids must have outer envelope marked as “**Holyoke Water Works, Phase 2A Water Main Replacement Project.**”

The work consists of providing approximately 6,700 feet of 8-inch through 16-inch diameter ductile iron water main, new valves, hydrants, and connections to intersecting streets. The work also includes reconnecting new water services from the old water main to be abandoned to the new water main, water service trenchless technology installation, existing water service transfers, abandonment of existing water main, and surface restoration. Bids shall be on a unit price basis, as indicated in the Bid Form.

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30, Section 39M as amended.

Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the “planholders” or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project. Bidding documents may also be examined at the office of Tighe & Bond, Inc., 53 Southampton Road, Westfield, Massachusetts between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00

p.m., Monday through Friday, legal holidays excluded.

A bid deposit shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

This project is to be funded in part by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the ‘Trust’). Section 00800 contains the funding program construction contract requirements, all of which shall be applicable to this Contract.

The project requires compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Diesel Retrofit Program by use of after-engine emission controls that are EPA certified, or their equivalent, on all of the off-road (non-registered) diesel vehicles/equipment used at the job site.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals are applicable to the total dollars paid to the construction contract. The goals for this project are a minimum of **4.2 percent D/MBE participation and 4.5 percent D/WBE participation** by certified DBEs. The two low bidders shall submit completed DBE forms (EEO-DEP-190C, EEO-DEP-191C and the DBE Certification of United States Citizenship form) by the close of business on the third business day after bid opening. Failure to comply with the requirements of this paragraph may be deemed to render a proposal non-responsive. No waiver of any provision of this section will be granted unless approved by the Department of Environmental Protection

(MassDEP).

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract. Federal Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the United States Department of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Act also apply to this project.

The time period for holding Bids, where Federal approval is not required is 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after opening of Bids and where Federal approval is required, the time period for holding Bids is 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excluded after Federal approval.

This Contract contains price adjustments for hot mix asphalt mixes, diesel fuel, gasoline, and Portland cement contained in concrete. See Section 01270 for payment procedures and base prices for this Project.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at Holyoke Water Treatment Plant at 600 Westfield Road, Holyoke, MA, on February 24, 2021 at 10 AM.

HOLYOKE WATER WORKS, HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS
Consulting Engineer:
Tighe & Bond, Inc.
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Westfield, MA 01085
413-562-1600
02/12/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21C0026CA
In the matter of:
Shirley Jean Johnson
aka Jean Johnson
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Shirley Jean Johnson aka Jean Johnson** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Jean Burke Johnson

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 3/11/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 04, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/12/2021

City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #15
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078
(413)-322-5650
Invitation to Bid 2021-005
Roberts Field Basketball Courts Resurfacing

The City of Holyoke is seeking written proposals for resurfacing of the basketball courts at Roberts Field adjacent to Holyoke High School.

Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 15, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA 01040 until **2:00 PM on 3/4/21** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Documents will be available by email request after 10:00 AM on 2/10/21 at: belangerl@holyoke.org and or colond@holyoke.org.

The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

02/12/2021

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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HERSTORY, from page 1

many incredible women who have contributed to this great Commonwealth—and our great nation—have too often been lost to history. It is therefore my great honor and privilege to help to tell their stories, and to make the faces that we see in the State House more representative of the rich diversity that make our state great."

The exhibition features the photos of 91 women, ranging from 17th century tribal leader Weetamoo and Black landowner Zipporah Potter Atkins to living pioneers Justice Fernande Duffly, the first Asian American to serve on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Oscar-winning costume designer Ruth Carter, poet Amanda Gordon, and HCC president Christina Royal.

In 2017, Royal became HCC's fourth president and the first woman to hold the position.

"I want to thank Senate President Spilka for creating the HERstory initiative," said Royal. "This is a time for us to recognize that the lived experiences of women in the Commonwealth matter, and that we are a diverse group of women of different races, ethnicities, social classes, abilities, educational levels, gender expressions, and sexual orientations. I am proud to share my story as a multiracial, queer woman so that girls and young women can see representation of themselves in society,

and grow up believing in their limitless potential."

Since the State House is currently closed to the public, a website containing photos and short biographies of each of the honorees can be found on the Mass.gov HERstory page: malegislature.gov/StateHouse/HERStory (President Royal is No. 38.)

"I feel honored to have been selected by Senate President Spilka for inclusion in this remarkable display of women," said Elaine Weddington Steward, vice president and club counsel of the Boston Red Sox. "My hope is that this project will inspire women and girls to follow and achieve their dreams."

Senate President Spilka, together with members of the Senate and staff, chose honorees based on their close ties to Massachusetts, ability to inspire the youth of today to work for a better world, and acknowledgement of being a trailblazer in their given field. Honorees include abolitionists, poets, entrepreneurs, educators, politicians, musicians, community activists and scientists, among others.

"It is an honor to be selected to be part of President Spilka's HERstory project as a Community Development leader," said MassHousing Executive Director Chrystal Kornegay. "While it highlights my work, it really highlights the work of mothers, daughters, sisters and friends who work in big and small ways to make the Commonwealth's communities strong and vibrant. I look

forward to reading the stories of the other women in the project."

Further, related events will be scheduled later in February to celebrate Black History Month, and in March for Women's History Month. The photos and biographies will also become part of a dedicated lesson plan, currently being developed, to distribute to teachers in the Commonwealth.

"This is a wonderful initiative by Senator Spilka to highlight the stories of remarkable women," said Razia Jan, the founder of Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in Afghanistan through community-based education. "Massachusetts was the first community I called home in America, and I'm honored to be recognized by my home state. Women and girls throughout the world have so much potential to contribute to society, when they are given the chance; recognizing this potential is so important."

The HERstory: Volume II project is the second time Senate President Spilka has featured the stories of remarkable women in the President's suite. She unveiled the photos of 88 women during Women's History Month in March 2019, and they remained in her office suite until this month, when they were replaced with the current photo exhibition.

"I am honored to be part of HERstory on behalf of countless bril-

liant and driven women who shaped our history, but whose own stories have not been told," said Pardis Sabeti, head of the Sabeti Lab, which is part of the FAS Center for Systems Biology at Harvard University. "Together, we honor and remember them, while striving to elevate the voices of the many women who are still silenced throughout the world today."

"This project helps create lasting impact and change by amplifying the whispered stories and leadership of women of color across Massachusetts into a roar," said Lisa Wong, former Fitchburg Mayor and current town manager of Winchester.

"Women, throughout history, have contributed to the development of society—through scientific discoveries, pioneering adventures, advocacy, and entrepreneurship," said Yari Golden-Castaño, a systems engineer at MIT Lincoln Laboratory and one of 100 candidates from around the world for the Mars One Project, the first human settlement of Mars. "It should be normal by now for young girls to grow up with women like them in positions of expertise and authority, showing girls they really can follow their dreams."

"Senate President Spilka has created a wonderful way to celebrate the many ways women have contributed to our rich history, and I am excited to be a part of it," said Fernande R.V. Duffly, associate justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.



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In The News

SYMPHONY, from page 6

movement of Symphony No. 4 in E Minor by Johannes Brahms will be under the microscope, providing the basis of an entirely different lecture focusing on and digging into the details of Beethoven's successor's final symphonic movement. This energetic 90-minute presentation will include insights from the Maestro, musical excerpts, and plenty of time for your questions.

On March 4, at 7:30 p.m. The Art of the Audition: From Conservatory to Career with SSO's Principal Cellist Emily Taubl SSO's Principal Cellist Emily Taubl will offer an engaging and interactive discussion on the intimidating world of auditions! Ever wonder what it's really like to step into an audition room? Curious about how an audition is run or what the panel is looking for? In this 90-minute presentation, Emily will share stories and play excerpts on her cello to give a behind-the-scenes look at auditioning for The Juilliard School, Yale School of Music and the New England Conservatory as well as professional orchestral auditions. It will be a night of laughter, engaging discussion, and Q&A that's perfect for musicians and non-musicians alike.

Both events will be held via Zoom, and the link will be emailed after registration. Full details and registration information are available on the Symphony website at <https://www.springfieldsymphony.org/adult-music-education-classes>. Registration closes a half hour before each event.

Through the Card to Culture program, individuals who are EBT, WIC, or ConnectorCare card holders may get free tickets to this event. Contact Education Director Kirsten Lipkens at klipkens@springfieldsymphony.org if you are interested.



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